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University of Minnesota installs alert system on Morris campus

Summary: The audio alert broadcast speakers will supplement emergency communication measures already in place on the Morris campus.

(September 16, 2011)-The University of Minnesota Department of Emergency Management is installing new alert systems on the Morris, Crookston, Duluth, and Twin Cities campuses. The audio alert broadcast speakers will supplement emergency communication measures already in place on the Morris campus.

At Morris, a 360-degree digital speaker will emanate a “set of tones” and/or prerecorded voice messages notifying those in the area of emergency happenings. Dale Livingston, environmental health and safety specialist at Morris, says, “The speaker will provide quick notification of an emergency situation to people in various outside campus locations.”

Installed on a 50-foot pole behind the Education building, the messages and tones will reach the entire campus including Big Cat Stadium, the softball fields, the horse enclosures, and the soccer fields.

The Morris campus’s existing emergency resources include the TXT-U text messaging system, email messages, and radios inside campus buildings that utilize the Stevens County Communication Center emergency system.

The cost for the Universitywide project, more than \$690,000, will be offset by a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security. The Rochester campus is not included because the facility in which it is located already has a warning system in place.

The project, now underway on the Morris campus, will be completed this fall.

Photo: graphic illustration

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